## Bowling Green title-winning football coach takes over at St. X

Sports 1C

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# Ruling may affect Pitino, Jurich

### AG: Trustees could have helped fired employees

**Chris White**
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The University of Louisville board of trustees repeatedly broke open meetings laws — and may have strengthened the cases of Rick Pitino and Tom Jurich — according to a decision issued Monday by Attorney General Andy Beshear.

The ruling is a response to a complaint filed in December by Courier Journal, which argued state law prohibits public agencies, such as the board of trustees, from allowing its members to participate in closed sessions via video teleconference.

Several trustees, including pizza magnate "Papa" John Schnatter, used video teleconferencing to attend closed sessions in the past two years, according to minutes from board of trustees meetings.

The ruling is significant because it opens the door for Pitino and Jurich to sue to have disciplinary action against them reversed if it was discussed or acted on in a closed session.

Pitino has filed a breach of contract lawsuit against the university. Jurich has not.

The University of Louisville board of trustees voted 10-3 to fire Jurich with cause on Oct. 18. Three trustees — Bonita Black, Sandra Frazier and Ron Wright — used video teleconference to attend the Oct. 2 meeting in which litigation and personnel matters were discussed during a closed executive session, according to meeting minutes. It's not known whether they discussed Jurich.

Pitino was fired with cause on Oct. 16

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Kentucky Kingdom's president says Senate Bill 35 would allow payroll flexibility to keep seasonal workers who want additional hours but don't want to get a second job. CJ FILE PHOTO

# Ky. Kingdom workers could lose overtime

### Seasonal employers get break under Senate proposal

**Phillip M. Bailey**
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a move that could affect the paychecks of thousands of workers at theme parks, golf courses and sports stadiums, a Kentucky lawmaker wants to allow seasonal businesses to avoid paying its employees overtime.

The proposal, Senate Bill 35, squeaked through that chamber last week. It would apply to amusement parks and other businesses that are open seven months or less in a year. That could include the Kentucky Kingdom amusement park and the Louisville Bats, a minor league professional baseball team.

Ed Hart, president of Kentucky Kingdom, said the measure would allow payroll flexibility to keep seasonal workers who want additional hours but don't want to get a second job.

He didn't ask for this legislation, he said, but supports it because he can't afford to pay overtime to employees who work more than 40 hours a week. That situation often arises when his younger summertime staff, many of whom make up to $16 an hour, return to school in August. "You don't want someone to leave a 40-hour-a-week job here and catch a bus or whatever, and work part-time someplace else," Hart said. "I'd much rather they stay here, work the overtime, get paid a good wage but not get paid time and a half. I can't afford that."

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# Could state really take over JCPS operations?

**Mandy McLaren**
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A report commissioned by a private group of Louisville business and civic leaders claims that a state takeover could serve as a "temporary reset" for Jefferson County Public Schools.

The report, which the Steering Committee for Action on Louisville's Agenda shared with Courier Journal, said the district will not improve outcomes for kids until it undergoes a dramatic restructuring.

But how could the state take over the district? And what would that look like?

Here's what we know about those questions and others:

**How could the state take over the district?**

The Kentucky Department of Education launched an exhaustive audit of the district last spring, and a possible result would be the state taking control. That could happen if the audit finds the district has shown "a pattern of a significant lack of effectiveness and efficiency in the governance or administration of the school district" — and determines JCPS can't fix its problems on its own.

**Why is JCPS being audited in the first place?**

The state announced the top-to-bottom audit last February when Donna Hargens was superintendent.

Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt said an initial review into the district's management had uncovered more than 20 "significant deficiencies," including the widespread under-reporting of student seclusion and restraint, racial disparities in suspension rates and inadequate support for the district's lowest-performing schools.

Marty Pollio, who became acting

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